

(d) An applicant may apply for a grant if the Secretary does not encourage it to apply.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1135)

[57 FR 30343, July 8, 1992]

Subpart D—How the Secretary Makes an Award

§ 630.31 How the Secretary evaluates an application.

On the basis of the applicable selection criteria in § 630.32, the Secretary evaluates a preapplication or application. Any comments and recommendations received from State commissions as described in § 630.33, and other information requested or additional materials requested or required in accordance with § 630.34, may also be used in evaluating applications.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1135, 1135a-1, 1135a-2, 3474)

§ 630.32 Selection criteria.

Each year, in accordance with § 630.21, the Secretary announces the selection criteria that apply to each competition to be conducted that year. The selection criteria will be drawn from the criteria listed in paragraphs (a) through (c) of this section.

Each year, in accordance with § 630.21, the Secretary also announces the methods that the Secretary will use in applying the selection criteria in each competition. In applying the selection criteria, the Secretary first analyzes each application in terms of individual selection criteria, or groups of criteria, which may be given equal importance or ranked according to relative importance. The Secretary then makes a final evaluation based on an overall assessment of the extent to which each application satisfactorily addresses the applicable selection criteria.

(a) *Significance for Postsecondary Education.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for its significance in improving postsecondary education by determining the extent to which it would—

(1) Achieve the purposes of the particular program competition as referenced in § 630.11;

(2) Address the program priorities for the particular program competition;

(3) Address an important problem or need;

(4) Represent an improvement upon, or important departure from, existing practice;

(5) Involve learner-centered improvements;

(6) Achieve far-reaching impact through improvements that will be useful in a variety of ways and in a variety of settings; and

(7) Increase the cost-effectiveness of services.

(b) *Feasibility.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for its feasibility by determining the extent to which—

(1) The proposed project represents an appropriate response to the problem or need addressed;

(2) The applicant is capable of carrying out the proposed project, as evidenced by, for example—

(i) The applicant's understanding of the problem or need;

(ii) The quality of the project design, including objectives, approaches, and evaluation plan;

(iii) The adequacy of resources, including money, personnel, facilities, equipment, and supplies;

(iv) The qualifications of key personnel who would conduct the project; and

(v) The applicant's relevant prior experience;

(3) The applicant and any other participating organizations are committed to the success of the proposed project, as evidenced by, for example—

(i) Contribution of resources by the applicant and by participating organizations;

(ii) Their prior work in the area; and

(iii) The potential for continuation of the proposed project beyond the period of funding (unless the project would be self-terminating);

(4) The activities of the project, if funded under a National Project competition, would contribute to a collaboration among other grantees under that competition; and

(5) The proposed project demonstrates potential for dissemination to or adaptation by other organizations, and shows evidence of interest by potential users.